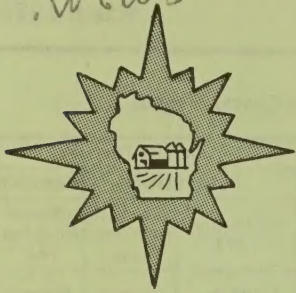


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
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VOL. V, NO. 5

PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

March 1973

Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in February was about the same as a year ago despite one less day in February this year.

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese and butter showed little change from January to February but Swiss cheese prices were up.

Cheese production in the Nation during January was up 2 percent from last year but butter production was down 5 percent.

The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products achieved a record high as of mid-February due to higher prices for livestock and soybeans.

Red meat production in Wisconsin during January was above a year ago for the first time since June 1972.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in February are expected to average \$5.94 a hundredweight, a slight seasonal decline of 2 cents from January.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of February were 9 percent under a year earlier as lower pork supplies offset an increase in beef stocks.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market rose sharply during February to average a new high of \$36.51 a hundredweight for the month.

The number of hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms March 1 was up 4 percent from a year earlier and the 10 Corn Belt States showed an increase of 2 percent.

Based on the March 1 Planting Intentions Survey, Wisconsin farmers plan to increase soybean acreage 22 percent and corn 3 percent from the acreage planted last year.

A custom rates guide for spring field work is shown on page 7.

Prices of good grade steers at the St. Paul market averaged slightly over \$40.00 a hundredweight for February.

MILK PRODUCTION ABOUT EQUAL TO YEAR AGO

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during February totaled 1,533 million pounds, nearly the same as last year when February had an extra day. Output per cow in February averaged 840 pounds, unchanged from a year ago. Wisconsin's milk production in the first two months of 1973 was just slightly ahead of those months in 1972.

Milk Production

Selected States	February 1972	February 1973	Jan.-Feb. 1973	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,539	1,533	3,093	n. c.	n. c.
Minnesota	861	814	1,656	- 5	- 3
Iowa	357	344	700	- 4	- 4
New York	832	754	1,568	- 9	- 7
Pennsylvania . .	571	511	1,068	- 11	- 8
California	772	769	1,586	n. c.	+ 1
Other states . . .	4,516	4,330	9,014	- 4	- 2
United States . .	9,448	9,055	18,685	- 4	- 2

FEBRUARY MILK PRICE DOWN SEASONALLY

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in February are expected to average \$5.94 a hundredweight, a slight seasonal decline of 2 cents from January. The February all milk price would be 46 cents higher than a year ago.

Milk prices in January averaged \$5.96 a hundredweight, down 3 cents from December but 48 cents above January 1972. Milkfat content for January averaged 3.77 percent, the same as a year earlier.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$6.10 a hundredweight in January, a decline of 2 cents from the previous month but up 44 cents from January last year. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$5.77 a hundredweight during January, 3 cents under December but 50 cents more than a year earlier. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 33 cents in January compared with 39 cents for January 1972.

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WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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Statistical Reporting Service

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	December 1972		January price per cwt.			Feb. 1973 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1972	1973	73/72 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.83	5.99	5.48	5.96	+ 9	5.94
Minnesota	3.71	5.60	5.11	5.61	+ 10	5.59
Iowa	3.87	5.88	5.39	5.83	+ 8	5.80
New York	3.65	6.75	6.35	6.80	+ 7	6.85
California	3.80	6.00	5.95	6.00	+ 1	6.05
United States	3.83	6.55	6.13	6.55	+ 7	6.55
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.83	6.12	5.66	6.10	+ 8	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.83	5.80	5.27	5.77	+ 9	xxx
Creameries	3.82	5.63	5.18	5.60	+ 8	xxx
Cheese factories	3.83	5.82	5.29	5.79	+ 9	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.83	5.70	5.22	5.66	+ 8	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Jan. 1972	Dec. 1972	Jan. 1973 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.09	5.47	5.53	+ 9
Market milk	5.25	5.59	5.66	+ 8
Manufacturing milk	4.89	5.30	5.36	+ 10
Creameries	4.85	5.16	5.20	+ 7
American cheese plants	4.91	5.33	5.38	+ 10
Varied products plants	4.87	5.21	5.24	+ 8
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	5.59	5.95	5.98	+ 7

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

BUTTER PRODUCTION TO REMAIN LOWER

Weekly estimates of butter production in the Nation for February indicate that churnings may be 12 percent below a year earlier. January's butter output in the Nation was down 5 percent from last year. Wisconsin creameries may also produce less butter in February than a year ago after showing a 1 percent gain in January.

Based on weekly estimates, American cheese production in the Nation for February may show little change from the previous year as it did in January. Production of American cheese in Wisconsin during February will exceed the 1 percent increase shown in January compared with a year ago.

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
January	96,142	- 5	+ 1	123,503	n. c.	+ 1
Weeks ending						
Feb. 8	21,100	- 11	+ 1	29,250	+ 2	+ 2
Feb. 15	20,750	- 13	- 4	29,700	+ 2	+ 10
Feb. 22	21,800	- 11	- 2	30,200	- 2	+ 1
Mar. 1	21,400	- 12	+ 2	30,500	- 1	+ 6
Total	85,050	- 12	xxx	119,650	n. c.	xxx

CHEESE PRODUCTION UP BUT BUTTER OUTPUT LOWER

Production of all cheese in the Nation during January was 2 percent above a year ago but butter output was down 5 percent. Production of American cheese in the Nation during January showed little change from last year while output of Brick and Muenster declined 10 percent. Italian cheese production for January was 9 percent more than the previous year. Output of Swiss cheese during January was up 7 percent from a year earlier and all other cheese production increased 3 percent.

Wisconsin factories manufactured over 56 million pounds of American cheese in January, a gain of 1 percent from last year. Minnesota's production of American cheese for January was up 17 percent from a year ago, but Missouri had a decline of 8 percent and all other states were down 7 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	January 1972	January 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds		Percent
BUTTER			
Wisconsin	16,900	17,150	+ 1
Minnesota	24,400	19,900	- 18
Iowa	7,700	6,200	- 19
Other states	52,475	52,892	+ 1
United States	101,475	96,142	- 5
CHEESE, AMERICAN			
Wisconsin	56,000	56,400	+ 1
Minnesota	16,030	18,700	+ 17
Missouri	5,680	5,200	- 8
Other states	46,250	43,203	- 7
United States	123,960	123,503	n. c.
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS			
United States			
Swiss	13,900	14,911	+ 7
Brick and Muenster	5,830	5,264	- 10
Italian	38,500	42,154	+ 9
All other	16,555	17,047	+ 3
Total	75,025	79,376	+ 6
ALL CHEESE			
United States	198,985	202,879	+ 2
OTHER PRODUCTS			
Cottage Cheese			
United States			
Curd 1/	62,835	66,442	+ 6
Creamed 2/	83,225	85,209	+ 2
	1,000 gallons		Percent
Ice Cream			
Wisconsin	1,375	1,350	- 2
Illinois	2,620	3,400	+ 30
Iowa	560	510	- 9
Michigan	2,390	2,760	+ 15
Minnesota	1,980	2,235	+ 13
Other states	44,855	44,684	n. c.
United States	53,780	54,939	+ 2

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

Creameries in Wisconsin churned more than 17 million pounds of butter during January, an increase of 1 percent from January 1972. Butter production in Minnesota was down 18 percent from January last year and Iowa had a decline of 19 percent. All other states increased their January butter output 1 percent from the previous year.

WHOLESALE SWISS CHEESE PRICES INCREASE

Wholesale prices of block Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 78 cents a pound during February. This was an increase of more than $\frac{3}{4}$ cent a pound from January and was $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents above February last year.

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets in February, the same as a month earlier but up more than 5 cents from a year ago.

Prices of 92-score butter at New York averaged 68.67 cents a pound during February, just slightly under the previous month and last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	February 1972	January 1973	February 1973 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	68.75¢	68.71¢	68.67¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	58.69¢	63.75¢	63.75¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	70.50¢	77.20¢	78.00¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$7.70-9.10	\$8.10-9.10	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound.	31.41¢	39.06¢	40.34¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

BUTTER AND CHEESE STOCKS HIGHER

The Nation's stocks of butter and cheese in cold storage at the end of February were higher than a year ago. There were 112 million pounds of butter in cold storage on February 28, an increase of 20 percent from last year. Government holdings of butter in cold storage exceeded 93 million pounds, up 44 percent from February 29, 1972.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Total stocks			
	Feb. 28, 1971	Feb. 29, 1972	Feb. 28, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	134,090	93,272	111,898	+ 20
Cheese, American	242,808	229,498	255,950	+ 12
Cheese, Swiss	12,302	7,052	8,660	+ 23
Cheese, all other	54,807	48,856	51,330	+ 5
Cheese, total	309,917	285,406	315,940	+ 11
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	3,771	4,240	3,546	- 16
Cheese, American	148,451	132,945	169,124	+ 27
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	107,231	64,615	93,236	+ 44
Cheese, American	806	1,409	135	- 90

*Included in above totals

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

Commodity	Jan. 31, 1971	Jan. 31, 1972	Jan. 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	5,474	4,597	4,415	- 4
Dried skim milk	89,239	77,074	35,322	- 54
Dried buttermilk	8,352	3,458	3,093	- 11
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . . .	81,279	74,294	60,179	- 19

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

Total cheese stocks in cold storage at the end of February amounted to 316 million pounds, 11 percent more than a year ago and the highest for that date since 1969. American cheese stocks of 256 million pounds were up 12 percent from February 29, 1972. The Government held only 135,000 pounds of American cheese at the end of February compared with almost 1½ million pounds a year earlier. Stocks of Swiss cheese in cold storage on February 28 were 23 percent above last year while all other cheese stocks were up 5 percent.

MEAT STOCKS REMAIN LOWER AS PORK SUPPLY DOWN

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of February were 9 percent below a year earlier. Stocks of beef in cold storage on February 28 were up 14 percent from last year but pork supplies were down 31 percent.

There were 352 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of February, a decline of 28 million pounds from a month earlier but about 43½ million pounds above a year ago.

Stocks of pork in cold storage on February 28 amounted to 201 million pounds, nearly 6 million pounds less than the previous month and almost 83 million pounds lower than last year. Pork belly holdings dropped to 30 million pounds at the end of February, 66 percent under a year ago.

Frozen veal stocks on February 28 were 85 percent more than the previous year but stocks of frozen lamb and mutton were down 15 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	Feb. 28, 1971	Feb. 29, 1972	Jan. 31, 1973	Feb. 28, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	298,770	297,927	367,435	340,948	+ 14
In cure and cured	9,601	10,671	12,758	11,097	+ 4
Total	308,371	308,598	380,193	352,045	+ 14
Pork:					
Frozen	315,918	266,870	192,979	187,359	- 30
In cooler	22,890	22,630	13,776	13,597	- 40
Total	338,808	289,500	206,755	200,956	- 31
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,334	7,935	15,145	14,668	+ 85
Lamb and mutton, frozen	19,653	12,836	13,485	10,962	- 15
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	50,452	67,152	48,358	47,100	- 30
Other meats	19,596	21,093	16,513	15,069	- 29
Total, all meats	745,214	707,114	680,449	640,800	- 9

Milk Cows, Production per Cow, and Total Milk Production, Wisconsin by Counties, 1970-72

County	1970			1971			1972 1/			
	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Production	
	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Rank
Barron	46,800	10,200	477,360	47,000	10,200	479,400	47,900	10,400	498,160	12
Bayfield	5,700	9,500	54,150	6,000	9,900	59,400	6,100	10,200	62,220	60
Burnett	6,900	9,600	66,240	7,100	9,800	69,580	7,200	10,000	72,000	58
Chippewa	48,500	9,800	475,300	48,600	10,100	490,860	50,000	10,400	520,000	8
Douglas	3,100	9,600	29,760	3,000	9,800	29,400	3,000	10,000	30,000	65
Polk	33,500	10,000	335,000	34,000	10,200	346,800	34,700	10,500	364,350	23
Rusk	19,000	9,200	174,800	19,300	9,200	177,560	19,400	9,400	182,360	43
Sawyer	3,900	9,300	36,270	3,800	9,600	36,480	3,800	9,900	37,620	63
Washburn	6,000	9,400	56,400	6,000	9,700	58,200	6,000	9,900	59,400	61
Northwest District . . .	173,400	9,834	1,705,280	174,800	9,998	1,747,680	178,100	10,253	1,826,110	
Ashland	4,300	9,200	39,560	4,200	9,500	39,900	4,200	9,800	41,160	62
Clark	65,700	10,100	663,570	67,200	10,300	692,160	67,300	10,500	706,650	4
Iron	900	9,200	8,280	800	9,400	7,520	900	9,600	8,640	68
Lincoln	11,900	9,600	114,240	12,000	9,800	117,600	11,900	10,000	119,000	52
Marathon	85,400	10,100	862,540	85,900	10,300	884,770	86,000	10,700	920,200	1
Oneida	700	8,700	6,090	800	9,000	7,200	800	9,200	7,360	69
Price	10,300	8,900	91,670	10,400	8,900	92,560	10,400	9,300	96,720	56
Taylor	28,900	9,800	283,220	29,800	10,000	298,000	30,000	10,400	312,000	29
Vilas	200	8,500	1,700	200	8,800	1,760	200	9,100	1,820	71
North Central District .	208,300	9,942	2,070,870	211,300	10,135	2,141,470	211,700	10,456	2,213,550	
Florence	1,200	9,600	11,520	1,200	9,800	11,760	1,200	10,300	12,360	67
Forest	2,000	8,800	17,600	1,900	8,900	16,910	1,900	9,200	17,480	66
Langlade	12,600	9,600	120,960	13,000	9,600	124,800	13,100	9,900	129,690	50
Marinette	13,100	9,400	123,140	13,300	9,600	127,680	13,800	9,900	136,620	48
Menominee										
Oconto	29,100	9,900	288,090	29,200	9,900	289,080	29,700	10,300	305,910	30
Shawano 3/	45,500	10,400	473,200	45,500	10,500	477,750	46,100	10,900	502,490	10
Northeast District . . .	103,500	9,995	1,034,510	104,100	10,067	1,047,980	105,800	10,440	1,104,550	
Buffalo	26,800	9,700	259,960	26,900	10,000	269,000	27,300	10,400	283,920	33
Dunn	39,600	10,000	396,000	39,900	10,000	399,000	40,800	10,500	428,400	16
Eau Claire	22,000	9,500	209,000	22,000	9,600	211,200	22,400	10,000	224,000	40
Jackson	17,900	9,600	171,840	18,300	9,700	177,510	18,800	10,100	189,880	42
La Crosse	20,900	9,800	204,820	21,300	10,100	215,130	21,400	10,500	224,700	39
Monroe	36,000	9,500	342,000	36,300	9,500	344,850	37,000	9,900	366,300	21*
Pepin	9,500	9,700	92,150	9,500	9,900	94,050	9,900	10,200	100,980	55
Pierce	26,100	10,000	261,000	26,100	10,200	266,220	26,100	10,700	279,270	35
St. Croix	33,800	10,400	351,520	34,600	10,500	363,300	35,000	11,000	385,000	19
Trempealeau	33,800	10,100	341,380	34,800	10,200	354,960	35,000	10,500	367,500	20
West Central District . .	266,400	9,871	2,629,670	269,700	9,993	2,695,220	273,700	10,413	2,849,950	
Adams	3,500	9,800	34,300	3,600	9,900	35,640	3,500	10,100	35,350	64
Green Lake	13,800	10,300	142,140	14,000	10,400	145,600	14,600	10,900	159,140	47
Juneau	12,500	9,600	120,000	12,400	9,700	120,280	12,800	10,200	130,560	49
Marquette	6,800	9,600	65,280	6,900	9,800	67,620	7,000	10,200	71,400	59
Portage	17,600	9,700	170,720	17,000	9,800	166,600	16,800	10,300	173,040	45
Waupaca	33,400	10,000	334,000	32,400	10,200	330,480	32,700	10,600	346,620	25
Waushara	11,800	9,900	116,820	12,200	10,100	123,220	12,000	10,600	127,200	51
Wood	24,800	9,700	240,560	25,100	9,900	248,490	25,000	10,200	255,000	38
Central District	124,200	9,854	1,223,820	123,600	10,016	1,237,930	124,400	10,437	1,298,310	
Brown	38,800	10,700	415,160	39,300	11,000	432,300	39,000	11,200	436,800	15
Calumet	29,800	10,800	321,840	30,100	11,000	331,100	31,000	11,400	353,400	24
Door	16,300	10,300	167,890	16,500	10,600	174,900	16,300	11,000	179,300	44
Fond du Lac	49,200	10,800	531,360	49,600	11,100	550,560	49,800	11,600	577,680	6
Kewaunee	29,600	10,300	304,880	29,900	10,400	310,960	30,400	10,700	325,280	28
Manitowoc	42,900	10,600	454,740	43,800	10,900	477,420	44,600	11,200	499,520	11
Outagamie	45,100	10,800	487,080	45,200	11,100	501,720	45,600	11,300	515,280	9
Sheboygan	32,700	10,800	353,160	32,600	10,900	355,340	33,000	11,100	366,300	21*
Winnebago	23,900	10,900	260,510	24,500	11,000	269,500	24,500	11,400	279,300	34
East Central District . .	308,300	10,693	3,296,620	311,500	10,927	3,403,800	314,200	11,244	3,532,860	
Crawford	19,500	9,500	185,250	19,900	9,600	191,040	19,800	10,000	198,000	41
Grant	53,900	9,900	533,610	54,600	10,100	551,460	55,200	10,500	579,600	5
Iowa	38,200	10,000	382,000	38,400	10,100	387,840	38,200	10,500	401,100	18
Lafayette	41,800	9,900	413,820	42,200	10,000	422,000	42,400	10,500	445,200	14
Richland	29,000	9,700	281,300	28,500	9,900	282,150	28,300	10,200	288,660	32
Sauk	37,800	10,200	385,560	37,700	10,400	392,080	38,100	10,800	411,480	17
Vernon	45,800	9,200	421,360	45,700	9,300	425,010	45,900	9,800	449,820	13
Southwest District . . .	266,000	9,785	2,602,900	267,000	9,931	2,651,580	267,900	10,354	2,773,860	
Columbia	23,800	10,800	257,040	23,900	11,100	265,290	23,600	11,400	269,040	36
Dane	69,200	10,600	733,520	68,800	11,000	756,800	68,300	11,500	785,450	2
Dodge	62,400	10,600	661,440	62,600	10,900	682,340	62,400	11,400	711,360	3
Green	49,000	10,600	519,400	48,800	10,800	527,040	48,400	11,300	546,920	7
Jefferson	30,900	10,700	330,630	30,500	10,800	329,400	30,700	11,200	343,840	26
Rock	30,600	10,700	327,420	30,800	10,900	335,720	30,400	11,200	340,480	27
South Central District .	265,900	10,641	2,829,450	265,400	10,914	2,896,590	263,800	11,361	2,997,090	
Kenosha	10,100	10,700	108,070	10,000	11,000	110,000	9,500	11,400	108,300	54
Milwaukee	500	9,700	4,850	500	10,000	5,000	400	10,500	4,200	70
Ozaukee	11,500	10,300	118,450	11,100	10,300	114,330	10,500	10,700	112,350	53
Racine	9,200	10,900	100,280	8,500	11,100	94,350	8,000	11,500	92,000	57
Walworth	26,500	10,900	288,850	25,500	11,100	283,050	25,700	11,600	298,120	31
Washington	24,400	10,600	258,640	23,800	10,900	259,420	23,500	11,300	265,550	37
Waukesha	15,800	10,300	162,740	15,200	10,500	159,600	14,800	10,900	161,320	46
Southeast District . . .	98,000	10,631	1,041,880	94,600	10,843	1,025,750	92,400	11,275	1,041,840	
STATE	1,814,000	10,163	18,435,000	1,822,000	10,345	18,848,000	1,832,000	10,719	19,638,000	

1/Preliminary. 2/Average number of milk cows on farms during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. 3/Includes Menominee. *Tied with 1 or more counties.

MARCH 1 HOG INVENTORY HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

The inventory of hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms March 1 was 4 percent more than a year ago. Hogs kept for breeding purposes numbered 265,000, up 2 percent from the previous year. A total of 1,231,000 hogs and pigs were being raised primarily for the slaughter market, an increase of 4 percent from March 1, 1972.

There were 77,000 sows farrowing in Wisconsin during December through February, a gain of 7 percent from the comparable quarter a year earlier. These sows produced 566,000 pigs for an average litter rate of 7.35, slightly below the rate of 7.42 pigs per litter for the December-February quarter a year ago.

Farrowings from March through May are expected to total 120,000 sows, 2 percent under that quarter in 1972. Wisconsin farmers intend to farrow 101,000 sows during June through August, the same as a year earlier.

Hogs and pigs on farms March 1 in the 10 Corn Belt States were 2 percent more than last year. Breeding stock was up 5 percent from March 1, 1972 while market hogs showed an increase of 2 percent.

The number of sows farrowing in the Corn Belt States during December through February was 9 percent above that quarter a year earlier. Farmers in these States intend to farrow 5 percent more sows during March through May than farrowed in that quarter last year. Farrowing intentions for the June through August quarter indicate an increase of 4 percent from the previous year.

**All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market
March 1, 1972 and 1973, 10 States**

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1972	1973	Change from last year	1972	1973	Change from last year	1972	1973	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Ohio	334	317	- 5	1,966	1,868	- 5	2,300	2,185	- 5
Indiana	650	700	+ 8	4,130	4,300	+ 4	4,780	5,000	+ 5
Illinois	1,000	1,074	+ 7	5,450	5,726	+ 5	6,450	6,800	+ 5
Wisconsin	259	265	+ 2	1,179	1,231	+ 4	1,438	1,496	+ 4
Minnesota	474	560	+ 18	2,626	2,860	+ 9	3,100	3,420	+ 10
Iowa	2,045	2,122	+ 4	10,933	10,818	- 1	12,978	12,940	n. c.
Missouri	650	700	+ 8	3,550	3,500	- 1	4,200	4,200	n. c.
South Dakota	289	306	+ 6	1,317	1,394	+ 6	1,606	1,700	+ 6
Nebraska	482	465	- 4	2,442	2,535	+ 4	2,924	3,000	+ 3
Kansas	266	286	+ 8	1,634	1,684	+ 3	1,900	1,970	+ 4
Total 10 States ..	6,449	6,795	+ 5	35,227	35,916	+ 2	41,676	42,711	+ 2

Sows to Farrow, March through August, 10 States

State	March through May			June through August		
	1972	1973 1/	Change from last year	1972	1973 1/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Ohio	139	135	- 3	125	118	- 6
Indiana	256	260	+ 2	251	258	+ 3
Illinois	495	520	+ 5	435	450	+ 3
Wisconsin	122	120	- 2	101	101	n. c.
Minnesota	236	276	+ 17	190	205	+ 8
Iowa	1,020	1,070	+ 5	665	710	+ 7
Missouri	285	310	+ 9	250	250	n. c.
South Dakota	165	174	+ 5	75	85	+ 13
Nebraska	240	250	+ 4	157	150	- 4
Kansas	125	130	+ 4	90	104	+ 16
Total 10 States ..	3,083	3,245	+ 5	2,339	2,431	+ 4

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.

**Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop
December 1/ through February, 1972 and 1973, 10 States**

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 2/		
	1972	1973	Change from last year	1972	1973	1972	1973	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Ohio	105	110	+ 5	7.30	7.00	766	770	+ 1
Indiana	230	244	+ 6	7.39	7.30	1,700	1,781	+ 5
Illinois	310	350	+ 13	7.10	7.00	2,201	2,450	+ 11
Wisconsin	72	77	+ 7	7.42	7.35	534	566	+ 6
Minnesota	146	175	+ 20	7.35	7.45	1,073	1,304	+ 22
Iowa	462	500	+ 8	7.45	7.00	3,442	3,500	+ 2
Missouri	210	210	n. c.	7.16	6.74	1,504	1,415	- 6
South Dakota	65	75	+ 15	7.27	7.20	473	540	+ 14
Nebraska	130	150	+ 15	7.10	7.20	923	1,080	+ 17
Kansas	97	103	+ 6	7.40	7.05	718	726	+ 1
Total 10 States ..	1,827	1,994	+ 9	7.30	7.09	13,334	14,132	+ 6

1/December preceding year. 2/Number of pigs born December through February that were on hand March 1 or had been sold.

FARMERS PLAN TO INCREASE CROP ACREAGE

The annual March 1 survey of planting intentions for the 1973 crop season indicates that Wisconsin farmers plan to increase their acreage of major crops. Planted acreage for the 8 major crops included in the March Prospective Plantings Survey is expected to total 8,956,300 acres, up 2 percent from last year.

The intended acreage of corn, oats, and hay — Wisconsin's "Big Three" — could be about 123,000 acres more than in 1972 if farmers follow their plans. Only oats is expected to show a decrease, with a decline of 1 percent in acreage anticipated. Hay acreage may be up 1 percent from a year ago.

Corn planted for all uses is expected to total 3,150,000 acres in 1973, an increase of 3 percent from the previous year but 2 percent under the record acreage in 1971. During the two month period from January 1 to March 1, Wisconsin

farmers decided to reduce their corn planting intentions by 2 percent with some of this acreage shifting to soybeans.

Farmers in Wisconsin are planning to increase soybean acreage 22 percent this year. The planting of soybeans for all purposes may total 195,000 acres in 1973, up 35,000 acres from 1972 and 65,000 acres more than in 1971. Acreage intentions for potatoes and tobacco in 1973 show a decline from a year earlier.

Based on March 1 intentions, farmers in the Nation plan to increase corn acreage 7 percent in 1973. This is the same increase as indicated on the January 1 survey. Prospective plantings of soybeans, at 53,801,000 acres for all purposes, would be 14 percent above 1972. On January 1, the Nation's farmers had indicated only a 5 percent increase in soybeans for 1973. Farmers in the Nation are also planning to raise more oats, barley, spring wheat, hay, potatoes, and tobacco this year than a year ago.

Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1973 Intentions
Compared with 1971 and 1972 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1971	1972	1973	Change from last year	1971	1972	1973	Change from last year
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Corn, all	3,212	3,051	3,150	+ 3	74,055	66,753	71,571	+ 7
Spring wheat	14	11	12	+ 9	12,807	10,098	12,339	+ 22
Oats 1/	1,588	1,570	1,554	- 1	21,956	20,296	20,474	+ 1
Barley 1/	29	24	25	+ 4	11,115	10,639	11,041	+ 4
Potatoes, Fall	52.5	50.5	49.0	- 3	1,152.8	1,054.5	1,067.9	+ 1
Tobacco, Type 54 2/	5.3	5.4	5.4	n. c.	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, Type 55 2/	5.3	6.1	5.9	- 3	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, all 2/	10.6	11.5	11.3	- 2	839.4	843.3	898.7	+ 7
Soybeans 3/	130	160	195	+ 22	43,472	47,003	53,801	+ 14
Hay, all 2/	3,987	3,920	3,960	+ 1	61,405	59,783	60,894	+ 2

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Acres harvested or intended for harvest. 3/Grown alone for all purposes.

LIVESTOCK AND SOYBEAN PRICES CONTINUE HIGHER

Higher prices for livestock and soybeans resulted in the prices received index for Wisconsin farm products achieving a record level as of mid-February. At 424 percent of the 1910-14 base period, the prices received index was up 9 points (2 percent) from a month earlier and was 63 points (17 percent) above February 15, 1972.

Livestock prices continued to establish record highs. Steers and heifers averaged \$38.60 a hundredweight in mid-February, an increase of \$3.20 from the previous month and \$7.10 higher than last year. Slaughter cows, at \$30.20 a hundredweight in February, were \$4.10 above January and almost \$7.00 greater than a year ago.

Calves averaged \$51.00 a hundredweight as of February 15, a gain of \$2.90 from a month earlier and \$5.00 above the previous year.

The mid-February hog price of \$33.30 a hundredweight was up \$2.30 from January. Hogs were \$8.20 more than February last year and \$14.00 above two years ago.

Lambs averaged \$31.20 a hundredweight in February, an increase of \$2.60 from a month earlier and \$4.50 higher than February 1972. Sheep, at \$8.00 a hundredweight for mid-February, were \$1.00 more than January and \$2.70 above a year ago. Wool prices averaged 47 cents a pound as of February 15, a gain of 2 cents from the previous month and 23 cents

greater than last year. This was the highest wool price for February since 1966.

Egg prices declined 6 cents a dozen from January to February, but at 43 cents a dozen eggs were 20 cents above February 15, 1972.

Except for soybeans, crop prices declined from January to February. Soybeans reached a record high of \$5.10 a bushel for mid-February, an increase of \$1.25 from a month earlier and \$2.15 greater than February a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	February 1971	February 1972	January 1973	February 1973
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	385.00	425.00	485.00	490.00
Steers and heifers ..	Cwt.	28.00	31.50	35.40	38.60
Cows	Cwt.	20.10	23.30	26.10	30.20
Calves	Cwt.	36.20	46.00	48.10	51.00
Hogs	Cwt.	19.30	25.10	31.00	33.30
Sheep	Cwt.	5.80	5.30	7.00	8.00
Lambs	Cwt.	23.40	26.70	28.60	31.20
Wool	Lb.	.25	.24	.45	.47
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.085	.085	.100	.100
Turkeys	Lb.	.210	.230	.240	.240
Eggs	Doz.	.310	.230	.490	.430
Corn	Bu.	1.44	1.12	1.30	1.27
Oats	Bu.	.77	.71	.89	.87
Soybeans	Bu.	2.79	2.95	3.85	5.10
Alfalfa hay, baled ..	Ton	21.50	23.00	37.00	36.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Corn averaged \$1.27 a bushel in February, down 3 cents from January but 15 cents higher than last year. Oats, at 87 cents a bushel for mid-February, was 2 cents lower than January but 16 cents above a year earlier. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$36.00 a ton as of February 15, a decline of \$1.00 from the previous month but \$13.00 more than a year ago.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION RISES ABOVE YEAR AGO

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants during January was higher than a year ago for the first time since June 1972. The 109 million pounds of red meat produced in January was almost 12 percent more than the previous year. Output of beef was up 19 percent and pork production showed a gain of 2 percent from January 1972.

Wisconsin plants slaughtered 110,000 cattle in January, an increase of 19,000 from a year earlier. The average liveweight of cattle was 1,133 pounds for January, down 15 pounds from January last year.

Hog slaughter in January numbered 276,000, up 4,000 from a year ago. This was the first month since September 1971 that hog slaughter exceeded the previous year. The average liveweight of hogs, at 237 pounds for January, was 2 pounds heavier than January 1972.

The calf kill in January totaled only 23,500, down 4,500 from last year. Calf liveweight averaged 158 pounds for January, an increase of 9 pounds from a year ago. The January sheep and lamb kill of 200 was the same as January 1972.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

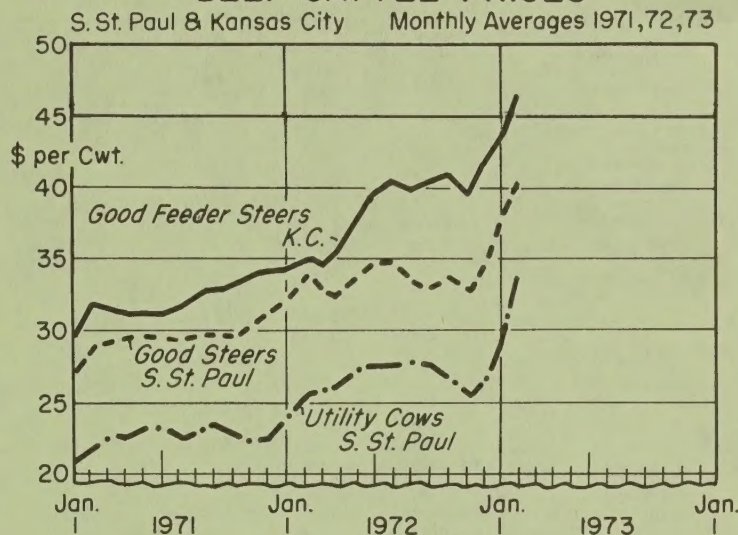
Area	Number			Liveweight	
	January		Change from last year	January	
	1972	1973		1972	1973
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	91.0	110.0	+ 21	104.5	124.6
United States 1/ . .	2,888.4	3,099.9	+ 7	3,026.4	3,251.9
Calves					
Wisconsin	28.0	23.5	— 16	4.2	3.7
United States 1/ . .	289.2	253.5	— 12	71.1	62.7
Hogs					
Wisconsin	272.0	276.0	+ 1	63.9	65.4
United States 1/ . .	7,017.3	7,097.0	+ 1	1,670.1	1,694.8
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.2	.2	n. c.	.021	.019
United States 1/ . .	880.8	857.5	— 3	94.3	92.7

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

BEEF MARKET CONTINUES UPWARD

Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$40.03 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during February. This was an increase of \$2.58 from January and \$6.64 above February last year. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$33.28 a hundredweight in February, up \$4.41 from the previous month and \$8.08 higher than February 1972. Prices of good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$46.44 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market for February, a gain of \$2.63 from January and \$11.48 more than a year earlier.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES



CUSTOM RATES GUIDE

Rates shown in the tables should be used as guides rather than absolute values in making decisions regarding custom work. Rates can vary widely, depending on topography, soil conditions, type and size of machine, traditional rates in a

Land Tillage Operations, Wisconsin, 1972 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour	
Plowing:				
Number of bottoms				
2	2.00-6.00	3.56	3.00-12.00	5.60
3	2.50-7.00	4.28	4.00-10.00	6.39
4	2.50-6.00	4.54	6.50-13.50	9.21
5	3.00-7.00	4.87	5.00-21.00	12.42
6 and over	4.00-6.00	4.74	6.00-20.00	14.00
Disking:				
Width in feet				
8-12 .....	.90-4.00	2.35	2.50-12.50	6.24
13-16	1.50-3.50	2.55	6.50-20.00	11.56
17 and over	1.25-3.00	2.28	10.00-20.00	14.40
Quack digging:				
Width in feet				
8-9.....	1.75-4.00	2.45	2.00- 7.00	5.10
10-13	1.25-3.50	2.24	4.00-15.00	6.82
14 and over	1.50-3.50	2.13	6.50-18.00	11.50
Chisel plowing:				
All reports 2/	1.80-5.00	3.40	4.00-20.00	9.60
Harrowing:				
Spike tooth				
Width in feet				
10-18 .....	.75-3.00	1.60	3.00- 7.00	5.20
19 and over .....	.50-2.00	1.23	5.00-12.00	8.81
Spring tooth				
Width in feet				
7-10	1.25-3.50	2.02	4.00- 6.00	4.50
11-15	1.00-2.50	2.14	4.00-15.00	7.00
16 and over	1.25-3.25	2.21	5.50-15.00	10.90
Chopping corn stalks:				
Width in feet				
6 and under	1.00-4.00	2.30	3.00-13.00	6.26
7 and over	1.00-3.50	2.39	4.50-10.00	7.25
Cultivating:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	1.50-3.00	1.88	2.50- 6.00	4.00
4 row	1.00-3.50	1.98	—	—
6 row	2.50-3.00	2.75	—	—
Cultivating:				
With fertilizer				
All reports 2/	1.75-3.50	2.85	7.00-10.00	8.50

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor, and fuel, but excludes costs of materials such as fertilizer, herbicides, etc. 2/State average per acre includes rates for all sizes of machines reported and reports that failed to indicate size of machine.

Planting and Fertilizing Operations, Wisconsin, 1972 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour	
Grain drilling:				
Without fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9 .....	.75-4.00	1.92	2.50-10.00	5.42
10-11 .....	.75-3.75	2.03	—	—
12 and over ...	1.50-3.00	1.98	—	—
With fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9	1.00-4.00	2.61	3.00-10.00	6.43
10-11	1.25-4.00	2.51	—	—
12 and over ...	1.75-4.00	2.42	—	—
Corn planting:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row. ....	.75-3.00	2.11	2.50- 6.00	3.83
4 row.	1.25-4.50	2.35	2.50-15.00	8.78
6 row.	2.00-3.00	2.40	—	—
With fertilizer				
2 row.	2.00-4.00	2.61	3.00- 6.50	4.05
4 row.	1.50-4.00	2.43	6.00-11.00	9.00
With fertilizer and insecticide:				
4 row.	1.50-4.00	2.65	7.00-12.00	9.00
With fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide:				
4 row.	2.00-5.00	3.24	—	—
Fertilizer application:				
Dry fertilizer. ....	.50-3.00	1.33	—	—
Liquid fertilizer. ....	.50-3.75	1.79	—	—
Anhydrous ammonia. .	1.00-3.50	1.83	—	—

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but excludes costs of materials such as seed, fertilizer, herbicides, etc.

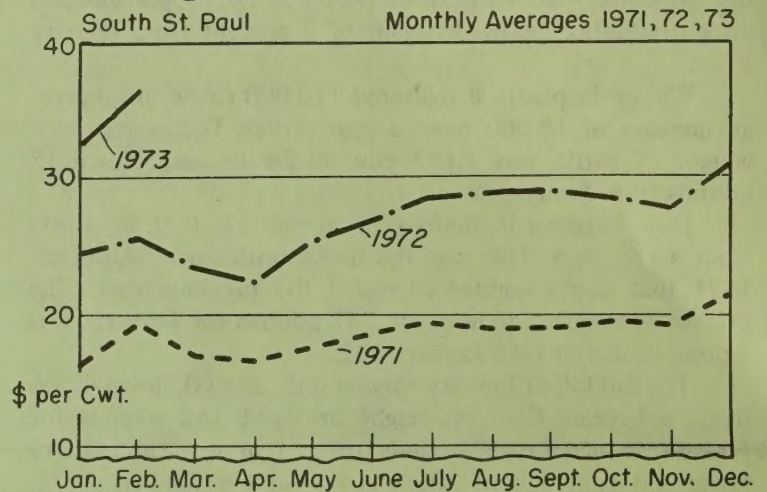
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given area, and special services performed. A more complete report on custom rates in Wisconsin, including harvesting operations and other farm work, is available by writing to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

HOG MARKET UP SHARPLY

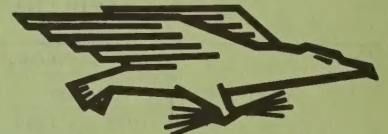
The prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market rose sharply during February. Barrows and gilts averaged \$36.51 a hundredweight for February, an increase of \$4.02 from January and \$10.91 higher than last year. Since November 1972, prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul have risen \$8.80 a hundredweight.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



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